REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Title of Publication: August Underground Snuff Edition

Other Known Title: Fred Vogel's August Underground

Format: DVD

Director/Author: Fred Vogel

Producer/Publisher: Fred Vogel

Country of Origin: USA

Language: English

Applicant: Comptroller of Customs

Distributor: Not Applicable

Classification: Objectionable.

Descriptive Note: Not Applicable

Display Conditions: Not Applicable

Date of entry in Register: 23 May 2007

Date of direction to issue a label: Not Applicable

OFLC No: 700613

Unexcised version of publication:

	Components	**Running time**
Menu:	Play Film Director's Commentary Commentary With Fred Vogel, Aaron Labonte + Ben Labonte Killer Commentary Trailer	
Feature:	August Underground Snuff Edition	70.57
Other timed components:	Copyright Warning / Dolby Digital Notice Trailer (August Underground)	 0.25 2.03
Total running time:		73.25

Excisions: No Excisions Recommended

Reasons for excisions:

Not Applicable

Summary of reasons for classification:

The publication entitled *August Underground Snuff Edition* is classified as: Objectionable.

The publication contains a feature with a running time of nearly 71 minutes. The feature has no plot, and is based purely around the sadistic activities of two serial killers who film the torture, degradation and humiliation of people they encounter. The feature's disturbing realism, its focus on the helplessness of victims and overall lack of positioning that these activities are repugnant mean that the publication as a whole promotes and supports sexual violence, torture, extreme cruelty and the use of excrement in association with degrading and dehumanising conduct.

The Classification Office has considered the effects of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 on the application of the classification criteria. The classification of this publication interferes with the freedom of expression, but this is an outcome that is consistent with Parliament's intention that publications falling under s3(2) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 are deemed to be objectionable. The classification is also a reasonable limitation on the freedom of expression that reflects the concern of a free and democratic society to limit the availability of publications that promote and support the use of violence to compel a person to submit to sexual conduct, the use of excrement in association with degrading and dehumanising conduct, and acts of torture and the infliction of extreme cruelty.